

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Divisional  
Application of 09/366,959 of

Kiyohisa TATEYAMA

Group Art Unit: 1734

Application No. To be assigned

Examiner: J. Lorengo

Filed: herewith

For: FILM FORMING APPARATUS AND FILM FORMING METHOD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present application is a divisional of the Patent Application No. 09/366,959 filed August 4, 1999. Prior to an initial examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-20 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 21, 23, 25 and 26 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claims 21, 23, 25 and 26 are set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment.

21. (Amended) A film forming method, comprising the steps of:

supplying process solution to a substrate ;  
rotating the substrate at a predetermined revolution speed; spreading out the process solution on the substrate; and forming a film of the process solution on the substrate, wherein the rotation of the substrate is accelerated in at least part of an acceleration region of the predetermined revolution speed by a main driving mechanism and a plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms for assisting the driving of the main driving mechanism.

23. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms are stopped before the substrate is rotated at the predetermined revolution speed.

25. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim 21, wherein after the rotation of the substrate is accelerated, the plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms do not assist the driving of the main driving mechanism in a deceleration region.

26. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim 21, wherein at least one of the auxiliary driving mechanisms is operating.

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. This preliminary amendment cancels claims 1-20 and 22. An early and favorable action on the material is respectfully requested. Should there be any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 5, 2002

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**APPENDIX I**

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claims 21, 23, 25, and 26 are set forth in a marked-up version below:

21. (Amended) A film forming method, comprising the steps of:

supplying process solution to a substrate ;  
rotating the substrate at a predetermined revolution speed;  
spreading out the process solution on the substrate; and  
forming a film of the process solution on the substrate,  
wherein the rotation of the substrate is accelerated in

at least part of an acceleration region of the predetermined revolution speed by [a plurality of driving mechanisms] a main driving mechanism and a plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms for assisting the driving of the main driving mechanism.

23. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim [22] 21,  
wherein [the auxiliary driving mechanism is] the plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms are stopped before the substrate is rotated at the predetermined revolution speed.

25. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim 21,  
wherein after the rotation of the substrate is accelerated, [the auxiliary driving mechanism does] the plurality of auxiliary driving mechanisms do not assist the driving of the main driving mechanism in a deceleration region.

26. (Amended) The film forming method as set forth in claim [22] 21,  
wherein at least one of the auxiliary driving mechanisms is operating.